NEWS ANALYSIS 1-0346 MARCH 12, 1976
RONALD J. DUNLAVEY

SECRETARY KISSINGER ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

ANNCR: ON THURSDAY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TRAVELLED TO THE CITY OF BOSTON TO RECEIVE AN AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE FROM THE BOSTON WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL. FOR THE OCCASION, HE HAD PREPARED A SPEECH WHICH WAS BOTH A VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY AND A CHALLENGE TO ITS CRITICS. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES THE SPEECH:

VOICE: FOREIGN POLICY IS NOT LIKELY TO BE THE CHIEF ISSUE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN THIS YEAR -- BUT IT WILL BE ONE OF THE MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES. THAT MUCH IS ALREADY EVIDENT FROM THE STATEMENTS MADE BY SOME OF THE EARLY CONTENDERS FOR THE NOMINATIONS OF THE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. THEY HAVE BEEN CRITICAL -- EVEN HARSHLY CRITICAL -- OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY, AND THEIR ACCUSATIONS HAVE BEEN ECHOED BY MORE THAN ONE NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST. FURTHERMORE, THE CRITICISM HAS TENDED TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST SECRETARY KISSINGER, WHO HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE ARCHITECT OF A POLICY OF WEAKNESS AND VACILLATION.

IT IS NOT SURPRISING, THEN, THAT MR. KISSINGER HAS GONE OVER TO THE COUNTER-OFFENSIVE.

(OPT) IN THE WORDS OF ONE NEWS SERVICE COVERING THURSDAY'S SPEECH, HE HAS "JUMPED INTO THE NINETEEN SEVENTY-SIX PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN WITH BOTH FEET." HIS CHIEF TARGETS ARE BELIEVED TO BE PRESIDENT FORD'S MAIN RIVAL FOR THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION -- FORMER GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN OF CALIFORNIA -- AND SENATOR HENRY JACKSON, WHO IS SEEKING THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S NOMINATION.(END OPT)

DENYING ACCUSATIONS OF WEAKNESS, MR. KISSINGER INSISTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN STRONG -- THAT IT WILL DISCOURAGE AND

RESIST CONTINUED SOVIET ADVENTURISM -- THAT IT WILL NOT TOLERATE WHAT HE CALLED "EXTORTION" BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES -- THAT IT WOULD LOOK WITH PROFOUND CONCERN ON COMMUNIST PARTIES SHARING POWER IN WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. BUT HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK METHODS OF COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN THE INTERESTS OF REDUCING INTERNATIONAL TENSION -- TO WORK WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN ESTABLISHING A JUST INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM -- AND TO STRENGTHEN ITS TIES WITH THE OTHER INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES AND TO, AS HE PUT IT, "MAINTAIN THE BALANCE OF POWER IN EUROPE."

HAVING SPELLED OUT THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY, MR. KISSINGER THEN TURNED SHARPLY ON ITS CRITICS -- PARTICULARLY CRITICS OF ITS SOVIET POLICY. "WHAT DO THOSE WHO SPEAK SO GLIBLY ABOUT ONE-WAY STREETS OR PRE-EMPTIVE CONCESSIONS PROPOSE CONCRETELY THAT THIS COUNTRY DO?" HE ASKED. "WHAT PRECISELY HAS BEEN GIVEN UP? WHAT LEVEL OF CONFRONTATION DO THEY SEEK? WHAT PRECISE CHANGES IN OUR DEFENSE POSTURE, WHAT LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE OVER WHAT PERIOD OF TIME, DO THEY ADVOCATE? HOW, CONCRETELY, DO THEY SUGGEST MANAGING THE SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP IN AN ERA OF STRATEGIC EQUALITY? IT IS TIME WE HEARD ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS."

(OPT) ADDED MR. KISSINGER: "THERE'S ROOM FOR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON WHAT POLICIES ARE TO BE PURSUED. BUT ---IN HIS WORDS --"COMPLEX REALITIES CANNOT BE DISSOLVED OR EVADED BY NOSTALGIC SIMPLICITIES. THOSE WHO CHALLENGE CURRENT POLICIES HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO GO BEYOND CRITICISMS, SLOGANS AND ABUSE, AND TO SET FORTH IN DETAIL THEIR PREMISES AND ALTERNATIVES, THE LIKELY COSTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS." AND, HE ADDED,

"NO SERVICE IS DONE TO THE NATION BY THOSE WHO PORTRAY AN EXAGGERATED

SPECTER OF SOVIET POWER AND AMERICAN WEAKNESS."(END OPT)

THE KISSINGER SPEECH CONSTITUTES NOT ONLY A VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION'S FOREIGN POLICY BUT ALSO A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO ITS CRITICS. IT SEEMS SAFE TO SAY THAT THEY WILL NOT LET THE CHALLENGE GO UNANSWERED --- AND THAT THE DEBATE ON FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, WILL CONTINUE AND INTENSIFY BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT NOVEMBER. BUT IF THURSDAY'S SPEECH IS ANY INDICATOR, SECRETARY KISSINGER DOES NOT INTEND TO REMAIN EITHER A PASSIVE TARGET OR A SILENT SPECTATOR.

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